



# Year 4 Spring Term 1

Welcome back to school and I hope you had a lovely rest over the Christmas holidays! The children are nearly half way through their journey of Year 4 and I hope they can keep up the great work they have been producing. We have a very exciting half-term planned, including a visit from a volcanologist, a parent workshop for our geography topic and lots of science investigations! Remember to look at the latest news on <https://gillibrand.lancs.sch.uk/> and follow us on twitter at [@GPSSycamore](https://twitter.com/GPSSycamore) for weekly updates of what we get up to in Year 4!

## Important Dates:

Tuesday 4<sup>th</sup> January- Return to school

Tuesday 5<sup>th</sup> January- Extreme Earth Launch

Friday 21<sup>st</sup> January - Volcanologist visit

Monday 7<sup>th</sup> February- Whole School Zoo visit

Tuesday 8<sup>th</sup> February- Parent Workshop at 2pm

Wednesday 9<sup>th</sup> February- Parlour visit

Friday 11<sup>th</sup> February- Finish for half term

## English

In English, we are going to begin the half-term by looking at poetry with a theme. The theme will be New Year's resolutions. We will be reading lots of poems and looking at the different structures of the poems. The children will then create their own poem about the New Year's resolutions which they are going to make.



We will then move onto looking at the non-fiction text of newspaper reports. The children will begin by looking at the features, vocabulary and grammar of different examples. We will be linking this to our geography topic of volcanoes and children will write a newspaper report based on a recent volcanic eruption.

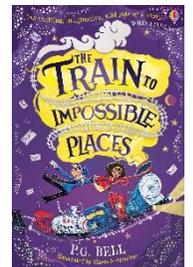
Throughout the half term, we will also be focusing on the spelling patterns: suffixes –tion and –sion and also the prefixes- im and -in.

## French

In French, we will be revisiting how to greet others by introducing ourselves and we will also learn how to talk about our family by naming them.

## Reading

In Spring 1, we will be starting a new class novel 'The Train to Impossible Places' by P.G. Bell. In Guided Reading sessions, we will be specifically looking at developing our skills of summarising and will also gather words and phrases which are interesting. We will then try and use this good vocabulary in our own writing.



## Maths

In Maths this half-term we will be continuing to look at multiplication and division and then we will move onto fractions.

First of all, we will be continuing to look at the long multiplication method to multiply 3 digit numbers by a 1-digit number. Then we will move onto division where the children will learn the chunking method.

After this, we are going to move onto learning about fractions where the children will learn how to find equivalent fractions and will add and subtract fractions.

Please note, alongside our maths lessons we will have a big focus on times tables.

## Science

In Science we will be starting a new topic 'Materials'. We will be looking at the different states of materials including solids, liquids and gases and will compare the different particles of each state when they are heated and cooled. The children will learn about the water cycle and use their previous knowledge in geography to describe it in relation to rivers. Throughout the topic, the children will be completing lots of investigations to find out things for themselves.

## RE

In RE, we will be exploring Sikhism. The question which we will focus on throughout the unit will be 'How do Sikhs express their beliefs and values?' We will start by thinking about how we express our own beliefs and values and then look more in detail as to how Sikhs express their beliefs and values by looking at stories and teachings of Sikhism.

## Art

In Art, we will begin the topic by looking at a skill of collage called quilling. The children will research the skill and collate images of different designs. From this, we will design and make our own piece of art work using quilling and also other techniques such as painting and drawing.

## Topic

We start this half term with our topic launch of Volcanoes and Earthquakes. The children will begin by looking at volcanoes and the process which occurs when it erupts. We will also develop our mapping skills when looking at volcanoes around in North America and the pattern of where they are at.

We will then begin to look at earthquakes and why they happen. We will use geographical terminology to describe the process.

Finally, we are going to compare where we live geographically to areas which are known for earthquakes to identify similarities and differences between the land.



## PSHE

We will be starting a new unit called 'Rights and Responsibilities'. The children will look at people who help them to stay safe and healthy. They will look at people in the community and close relatives who ensure this.

## Music

This half term, our music focus is on the song 'Don't Stop Believing.' The children will begin by listening to and appreciating the song and will then learn the lyrics and add instruments to their performance.

## Computing

In Computing we will be learning the skills of coding. The children will use the programme Scratch Junior to create algorithms to design a computer game. We will then debug and correct the algorithms so that it works correctly.

## PE

This half term, we will continue to go swimming to All Seasons Leisure Centre. Please ensure children have their swimming kits on **THURSDAYS**.